



**Written Testimony for the House Health Policy Committee
October 15, 2013**

Chairwoman Haines and Committee Members:

Good morning, my name is Karlene Ketola and I am the executive director of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 4865. The Michigan Oral Health Coalition membership includes consumers, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, medical providers as well as universities, community health centers, dental benefit providers, faith-based organizations, professional associations and local health departments who together work to improve the oral health of Michigan's 10 million residents.

Oral health is essential to overall health and quality of life. Left untreated, dental diseases can result in infection and severe pain, an inability to perform daily activities, and in very rare cases, death. Dental disease has also been associated with such chronic diseases as diabetes, stroke and heart disease.

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition supports House Bill 4865 as it looks to provide accountability for mobile dental providers. We support the bill with the hope that additional work will be done to ease any duplicative administrative reporting requirements. Mobile dental programs play a vital role in the care delivery system. Many of our Coalition members offer school-based programs which provide preventative and/or comprehensive care and currently refer patients to their own clinics.

Madame Chairwoman and Committee members, thank you for your time and consideration. The Michigan Oral Health Coalition stands ready to assist in any way appropriate as this bill moves forward.

Best Regards,
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